

UFO Reports Throttled by CIA, Physicist Says

Arizona Researcher Charges Agency Has
Ordered Air Force to Debunk Stories

TUCSON (AP)—The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has ordered the Air Force to debunk stories on unidentified flying objects, a University of Arizona physicist charges.

Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the UA Institute of Atmospheric Physics, said the hush-hush policy has throttled any scientific investigation of the objects.

He said there is reason to believe some of the objects may carry persons from outer space on reconnaissance missions over the earth.

He made his comments in a talk to scientists in the department of meteorology.

Discovers Order

McDonald, also an adviser on the Navy's Storm Fury panel, said he reached the extraterrestrial theory reluctantly after years of research on the UFO problem.

While doing research at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where the Air Force filed its flying saucer reports, McDonald said he discovered the CIA order—with the notation that its role not be disclosed.

McDonald said the order was attached to a book of UFO investigations compiled by scientists and called the Robertson Report. Completed in 1953, some of the report was declassified a short time later.

But McDonald noted that only three of its four sections were declassified and when he tried to follow up his original research by seeking photostatic copies, it was suddenly reclassified.

He said a CIA agent named Philip G. Strong

signed the order to debunk UFO sightings. The official explanation, McDonald said, was that such reports were clogging intelligence channels.

"I don't feel it's so much a cover-up," McDonald said. "But the truth is that there's been no real scientific investigation of these reports."

"People who make them are exposed to ridicule and accused of seeing mirages."

McDonald said the observers, for the most part, are too reliable to be brushed off so lightly. He cited the case last April 17 where sheriff's deputies from Ravenna, Ohio, pursued "a luminous object" at 100 m.p.h. to Conway, Pa.

Joined by Policemen

The distance was nearly 100 miles, McDonald said, and they were joined by two police officers from nearby communities after they heard their radio transmissions.

"The Air Force had its explanation ready," McDonald said, "after a four-minute telephone interview with the deputies which started out with the question 'Now, what about that mirage you saw?'"

McDonald said hundreds of reports never reach the general public because of the debunking policy. He said the silent treatment was begun after the rash of sightings in 1952 which reached a peak that summer.

International Geophysics Year scientists on an Arctic expedition noted similar phenomena, he said.

The blockade to scientists and others who attempt an investigation, said McDonald, is Air Force regulation 200-2.

This, he said, is the rule that makes it a crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for any air base official to give out such information.

"It all has to go to Wright-Patterson where it's buried," McDonald said.

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